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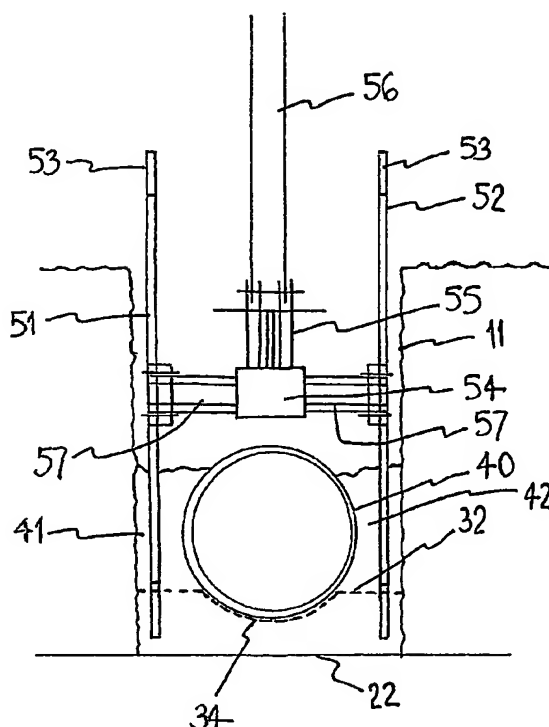
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(54) Title: APPARATUS FOR SPREADING, LEVELLING AND COMPACTING PARTICULATE MATERIAL IN TRENCHES



(57) Abstract: The specification discloses apparatus for spreading, levelling fine particulate earth or sand material in the base region of a preformed trench (11) and separately for compacting said fine particulate material about a pipe line laid in the trench, the apparatus including a spreader and leveller device (10) having a pair of spaced side walls (12, 13) each supported on a skid member (14) to facilitate sliding along the base (22) of the trench (11), the apparatus (10) also having adjustable width cross braces (23, 24), an open front face (20), formed transverse wall (25) that is also adjustable in width and having a lower edge (27) that is adjustable in height relative to the skid members (14), the apparatus (10) further having connection means to enable the apparatus (10) to be connected to machinery for towing same along said trench, the apparatus further including a separate compaction device (50) compressed by a pair of spaced wheels (51, 52) having teeth (53) around their peripheries, the wheels (51, 52) being adjustable in transverse position relative to each other and connection devices (54, 55) being provided enabling the compaction device (50) to be connected to the operational boom of a front end loader whereby rotating motion of the toothed wheels (51, 52) through previously laid fine particulate material compacts same.

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